IMPORTANT INFORMATION
for
Multimedia Center 8.0 Reviewers Guide

October, 2002

READ THIS FILE COMPLETELY BEFORE USING THIS PRODUCT !

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1.0 Introduction

Welcome to ATI Multimedia Center 8.0 (MMC 8.0) for ATI's All-In-Wonder 9700 PRO.

ATI Multimedia Center version 8.0 includes the following features

- DVD Player
- TV Player
- File Player
- Video CD Player
- CD Audio Player
- Media Library
- GemStar GuidePlus+ TV Listings (North America only)
- Teletext (Europe Only)
- ATI Remote Wonder, RF/USB Remote Control
- ATI Multimedia Configuration Application
- ATI Multimedia Launch Pad
- 4 different skins (Classic, Modern, ZeroG, Tranqulity)

2.0 System Requirements

PC requirements for ATI Multimedia Center 8.0:

- Sound Card with DirectSound drivers
- Motherboard with AGP bus slot
- USB Port (for RF remote control)
- PIII 500, Athlon 500 or better recommended
- 128 MB of memory recommended
- Windows XP

Advanced Server, Terminal Services must be disabled.

3.0 Install Requirements

You must have your graphics card installed as the **primary** display under Windows.

You must uninstall any previous version of ATI Multimedia Center before installing this version.

4.0 New Features in MMC 8.0

For users familiar with previous versions the MultiMedia Center, the following new features have been added with version 8.0

- Support for mulTView when combined with an ATI TV Wonder PCI card
  - Picture-in-Picture
  - Picture-outside-Picture
  - Record one while viewing another
  - Watch while channel surfing.
- VideoSoap - advanced filtering and noise reduction for personal video recordings
- Improved MPEG encode performance and quality
- Extended automatic filenaming options
- User remappable custom capture presets
- Closed caption database search
- Fast access to the most recently recorded content
- DVD now inludes
  - support for still capture
  - support for simultaneous dual sub-titles
  - improved S/PDIF support
- MediaLibrary can now
  - Protect files from deletion
  - Recommend content for deletion (disk clean up)
  - Export "m3u" style playlists
- Fileplayer now supports the ThruView desktop mode
- ...and many more little improvements.

5.0 DMA Settings

DMA is essential for smooth DVD playback to function correctly. It is are also essential for correct behavior of TV-On-Demand. At install time a check is made and a warning issued if DMA is not enabled.

SETTING DMA UNDER WINDOWS XP

To enable DMA, follow these steps.

- Open the Control Panel
- Select “System"
- Select the “Hardware” tab
- Select the “Device Manager” button
- Open the devices under “IDE ATA/ATAPI controllers”
- For *both* “Primary IDE Cannel” and “Secondary IDE Channel” do:
    - double-click on the device to show its properties
    - Select the “Advanced Settings” tab
    - Make sure the "Current Transfer mode" is not "PIO only" but “DMA” or “Ultra DMA” instead.
    - Change it if necessary.
- Apply the changes and re-start Windows

6.0 General issues and limitations

COLOR DEPTH & RESOLUTION SWITCHING

Changing the color depth or display resolution while Multimedia Center is running may result in an operating system or Multimedia Center failure. We recommend you exit the feature before changing the resolution, color depth or switching to a full screen DOS session. This includes using the "Ctrl+Alt+Del" command to enable the Windows Task Manager.

VIDEO CD PLAYBACK

Certain older Video CD 2.0 discs contain authoring problems which prevent them from working under Windows 2000 and Windows XP.

STILL CAPTURE & THE FILE PLAYER

Not all formats which can be played with the File Player support still capturing. In this case the capture still button does nothing.

7.0 Known issues and limitations with DVD

COLOR DEPTH REQUIREMENTS

Playing DVDs in 8 bit per pixel (256 color mode) may result in choppy playback, incorrect or no video. We strongly suggest the use of 16 bpp or 32 bpp display modes.

JITTERY PLAYBACK

On certain DVD video content you may experience sporadic jittery playback. You may also experience this while opening other windows or applications while DVD is playing. Make certain that you have the latest chipset drivers for your system to ensure optimal playback, and ensure that you have DMA enabled (see section 5.0).

SCREEN SAVERS

Certain windows screen savers cannot be disabled by the ATI DVD player. Open GL Screen savers should not be activated during DVD playback. Disable any system screen savers before running DVD.

8.0 Known issues and limitations with TV

CONSECUTIVELY SCHEDULED EVENTS

If you schedule two or more recording events that are consecutive in time, the second event may not start, as the previous event has not completed saving the recording to your HD. To avoid this, make the temporary capture drive the same drive as where you have designated the scheduled event to save to, or from the scheduler in the player, adjust the time of the second event to be 1 or 2 minutes after the first event.

SCHEDULED EVENTS AND POWER MANAGEMENT

Under Windows 2000 and Windows XP, if your system goes into standby mode, the scheduler will fail to record if the lockout dialog is enabled.

To disable the lockout dialog

- Open "Control Panel"
- Select "Power Options"
- Select the "Advanced" Tab
- Clear the checkbox “Prompt for password when computer goes off line”

In addition, the scheduler can not wake up a system that goes into hibernation or is turned off.

FILE SPANNING AND VIDEO CD FILES

Video CD files do not support file spanning.

AUDIGY SOUND CARD

You may experience difficulty controlling the volume of MMC TV when analog audio is connected to the LINE IN of an Audigy sound card. MMC 8.0 implements a number of special workarounds for this issue which require version 250 or later of the Audigy drivers. Please ensure that you have the latest Audigy drivers.

NOTE:
The rear panel MIC input of the Audigy soundcard only supports Mono audio. The MIC IN of the SB DRIVE KIT included in Audigy Platinum supports Stereo

audio.

9.0 Using the USB Remote Control

USB RECEIVER PLACEMENT

For optimum reception, the USB receiver should be placed as far from the case of your PC as possible. Do not place it close to your TV. Leaving the cover off the PC, or having the receiver in close proximity to other high frequency devices may effect the range and/or reliability of the remote. If you have a USB HUB, connecting the receiver to the hub may increase the performance of the remote control.

USB DEVICE CONFLICT

If the USB device is incorrectly installed, the receiver will be listed in the device manager as a non-working device. To resolve this follow the following steps.

?? Open "Control Panel"
?? Select "System"
?? Click on the "Device Manager" tab
?? Select the "USB Receiver" which will have a yellow exclamation mark.
?? Select "Remove"
?? Select "Refresh"

Note: After installing the USB remote, you must reboot Windows before the remote control can function properly.